



News Release

Dixie National Forest

For Immediate Release
August 28, 2008

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DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST ACTIVELY MANAGING TWO FIRES

CEDAR CITY, Utah – The Dixie National Forest is actively managing two fires: Forsyth Ridge and About Time. Both fires are being managed as wildland fire use (WFU). WFU are naturally occurring fires (e.g., lightning strike) that are managed for resource benefit. Utilizing the WFU tool, forest managers can allow fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem. Firefighters will actively manage and monitor these fires to ensure that they continue to produce positive forest health benefits.

Details of Two WFU on Dixie National Forest

The Forsyth Ridge WFU has been burning for about 10 days. It is located in the Pine Valley Wilderness area about 2.5 miles from Pine Valley. It is about 4 acres in size and has grown in the past several days. Smoke is visible from Pine Valley. In congressionally designated wilderness areas, fire is primary tool for managing vegetation. The Forsyth Ridge WFU is burning the dead understory and will likely result in regeneration of some aspen. Additionally, burning small holes in the vegetation will reduce the potential for larger fires in the future.

The About Time WFU has been burning for a couple days. The ½ to 1 acre fire is burning underneath the Paunsaugunt Rim about 400 yards south of the Straight Canyon Trailhead. It is smoldering and creeping in the litter and understory of a forest of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and aspen. Smoke from this WFU can be seen in Alton, Long Valley, and Kanab. For public and firefighter safety, the Grand View Trail between Mill Hollow and Swapp Canyon (including the Straight Canyon Trail) has been closed.

As the fires grow or change we will provide additional updates. Information on fires in Utah can be found at www.utahfireinfo.gov.

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